

TRIBUTE TO LOWELL THOMPSON

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to a selfless community servant and dedicated veteran from my district, Lowell Thompson of Trinidad, Colorado. As Commander of the local chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Lowell tirelessly dedicates his time to his fellow veterans and the youth of his community.

Lowell was drafted to fight in World War II prior to completing high school and served in Germany for two years. Thanks to a law recently passed by the State of Colorado, veterans who left high school early to serve their nation can now receive their diploma. Last year, alongside four of his fellow veterans, Lowell received his diploma in a ceremony at Rio Grande High School. Selflessly, Lowell chooses not to focus on his military service, but rather on his community.

Lowell's VFW chapter works with local schools, promoting various competitions among all grade levels. Lowell loves spending his time with other veterans and often visits them in hospitals and nursing homes throughout Las Animas County. In addition to his service to the VFW, Lowell worked as a Sears Catalog Merchant for twenty-three years. Prior to his time with Sears, Lowell tried his hand at farming in the San Luis Valley. Today, when not attending to his duties with the VFW, Lowell spends his time with his family.

Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues here today in applauding the hard work of Lowell Thompson. I commend Lowell on receiving his diploma and on his many successful endeavors as Commander of his local VFW chapter. I wish him all the best in the years to come.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ZETA TAU ALPHA'S EPSILON CHAPTER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS-FAYETTEVILLE

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2003

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Zeta Tau Alpha Epsilon chapter at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, who will celebrate their 100-year anniversary this year.

Founded back in 1903, Epsilon is the longest existing chapter of the Zeta Tau Alpha (ZTA) national sorority. Seven women in particular—Elizabeth Kell Rose, Hattie Williams, Margaret Hutcherson, Grace Jordan, Bess Byrnes, Della McMillan and Mabel Sutton—were instrumental in establishing the first ZTA chapter west of the Mississippi River.

The mission of Zeta Tau Alpha is to make a difference in the lives of their membership by developing the potential of each individual through visionary programming. They emphasize leadership development, community service, academic success and continued personal growth for women.

Later this month, Epsilon will celebrate this historical milestone with a series of events in Fayetteville, Arkansas. I look forward to joining them for an Arkansas-Alabama football game watch party they are holding on September 26, 2003.

Mr. Speaker, I truly believe that Epsilon has enjoyed 100 successful years because of the wonderful women they attract to their sorority. Epsilon sisters are committed to their traditions, heritage and friendships that last a lifetime. These are among the core values that tie us together as a society and as Epsilon has proven are important ingredients to the success of any organization. Please join me in honoring the Zeta Tau Alpha Epsilon chapter at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville on reaching the 100-year milestone and wishing them another 100 more to come.

WILLIAM DEARY, SBA 2003 MICHIGAN SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of William Deary the United States Small Business Administration 2003 Michigan Small Business Person of the Year.

In 1994 William Deary and his wife Cheri Lyn returned to her hometown of Jackson, MI and founded Great Lakes Home Health Services. Since that time the business has not only survived adverse conditions that saw almost a third of home health care companies close their doors, they have thrived. His commitment to his employees and the community was reflected by his decision to cut costs, but not lay off a single employee.

Today they have expanded the business now known as Great Lakes Home Health and Hospice, and are recognized nationally for their excellence in the field. In a national study conducted by Fazzi Associates Great Lakes Home Health ranked #1 in the country among agencies of similar size.

Mr. Deary is a leader in the Jackson community actively involved in assisting various organizations from the grass roots level to serving on the board of directors. He and his wife Cheri Lyn are the primary benefactors to the St. John Parish Educational Scholarship Program where they are parishioners. He serves as a member of the Board of Directors of this program that allows children from families who cannot afford the expense, but feel their children would benefit from a parochial school education to do so.

William is also Chairman of the Board and a member of the Executive Committee of the Jackson Downtown Development Authority. In addition he is active and has served in various capacities on the boards of the United Way of Jackson, Disability Connection, Child Benefit Program, Junior Achievement and helped to raise funds for the Ella Sharp Museum in Jackson. He was honored in 1998 to serve as one of the Congressional appointees for the state of Michigan at the inaugural Small Business Summit and has been on the National Board of Directors of the Home Care Association of America.

William Deary is truly deserving of his recognition as 2003 Michigan Small Business

Person of the Year. He has met and exceeded all the criteria of: Staying power; Growth in employees; Increase in sales; Improved financial position; Innovativeness; Response to adversity; and Contributions to aid community-oriented projects. He has made the Jackson community a better place to live by his commitment to excellence in the services he provides and in his willingness to give something back to the community.

TRIBUTE TO DONALD PALTHE

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today before this body of Congress to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen from my district. Donald Palthe of Grand Junction, Colorado is both a devoted teacher and a talented entertainer. From writing lesson books to performing for the elderly in retirement centers, Donald's dedication and civic mindedness make him a credit to our community. I am privileged to share his story here today.

As a boy growing up in Holland during World War II, Donald taught himself to play the ukulele and later the banjo. Donald turned his love of music into a career and has entertained thousands of people over the years, playing under the name Don Van Palta. He played at several restaurants and bars before taking a position at Caesar's Palace on the Las Vegas strip. From there, Donald was then offered a position on a cruise ship, where he had the opportunity to travel all around the world sharing his music with others.

Today, Donald brings joy to the lives of many when he visits retirement centers and reminds the residents the music of their youth. Donald does not stop at playing the banjo, though. He also teaches the instrument to others. He has hundreds of students across the country who have benefited from his instruction books, finger charts, and videotapes. Donald is dedicated to these students and still takes phone calls from them whenever he can.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize a citizen who has given so much to his community. Donald Palthe's life-long efforts to spread joy through music have made Grand Junction a better place to live. His example of service and creativity model the spirit that make this country great. I join my colleagues in recognizing Donald's achievements here today.

TRIBUTE TO CLARENCE MEDDERS (1927-2003), FORMER MAYOR OF BAKERSFIELD, CA

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2003

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a public servant, a devoted family man, and a close friend. Clarence Medders was born in Mississippi on December 7, 1927. Clarence served in the Army Signal Corps and graduated from teaching school, beginning a life-long pursuit to promote the education of young people.